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Application No. 10/660,687

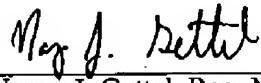
OCT 16 2006

Reply to Office Action

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over WO 00/00560 (Cabot Corporation). The rejection is moot in view of the accompanying Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 of Brian Mueller, Jeffrey Chamberlain, and David Schroeder, which demonstrates that WO 00/00560, which was published on January 6, 2000, is not prior art to the pending claims (which recite subject matter invented before January 6, 2000). Accordingly, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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